XLV.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

[Continued from p. 471.]

80. *Baer on Birds from Tucuman.*

[Note sur une Collection d'Oiseaux du Tucuman (République Argentine), par M. G. A. Baer. Ornis, xii. no. 3, p. 209. Paris, 1904.]

M. Baer was in Tucuman from September 1902 to April 1903: he gives us a list of the localities which he visited, their altitudes and peculiarities. The highest of these was the Cerro Pelado (5000 metres), in the "Puna" region, where he obtained examples of the rare Coot *Fulica cornuta* (*cf.* Rothschild, Bull. B. O. C. xiv. p. 38). M. Baer collected specimens of 191 species, of which he gives us a catalogue, adding a few short notes. Four of these species have lately been described as new by M. Oustalet under the names *Buarremon baeri*, *Upucerthia baeri*, *Siptornis lilloi*, and *S. hilareti**. Eleven of the species enumerated by M. Baer are not included in Sclater and Salvin's 'Argentine Ornithology.' Among these are two Humming-birds—*Petasophora iolata* and *Oreotrochilus estellæ*, both from Lara (4000 metres).

81. *Balducci on the Sternum of* Athene chiaradiæ.

[Osservazioni sullo sterno dell' *Athene chiaradiæ* (Gigl.) del Dott. Enrico Balducci. Archivio Zoologico, Napoli, i. pp. 375–380.]

The author, who is preparing a work on the sterna of birds, has examined a skeleton of the curious Italian Owl *Athene chiaradiæ* (see 'Ibis,' 1903, p. 1), and points out the slight differences between its sternum and that of the nearly allied *A. noctua*. He is inclined to accept Prof. Giglioli's view that *A. chiaradiæ* is a kind of "new species in process of formation."

82. *Bangs on Birds from Honduras.*

[Birds and Mammals from Honduras. By Outram Bangs. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. xxxix. no. 6 (1903).]

The author describes a collection made by Mr. W. W. Brown, Jr., in the early winter of 1902, in the vicinity of

* Bull. Mus. d'H. N. 1904, no. 2, p. 45.

Ceiba, on the coast of Honduras. It contains examples of about 130 species, most of which are provided with three names each in the list.

Chloronerpes simplex allophyeus *, *Picumnus dimotus*, and *Dendrornis nana confinis* are described as new. A (quite unnecessary) new generic name "*Chrysocantor*" (vox hybrida!) is used for the "Golden Wood-Warblers" (*Dendræca*): it seems to have been proposed by Mr. C. J. Maynard in 1901 †.

Fifty-one specimens of *Cotinga amabilis* were shot in one tree! Five adult male examples of *Carpodectes nitidus* were obtained near Ceiba, the range of this beautiful bird being thereby extended into Honduras.

83. *Barboza du Bocage on Birds from the Islands of the Gulf of Guinea.*

[Contribution à la Faune des quatre îles du Golfe de Guinée. Par J. V. Barboza du Bocage. Jorn. Sci. Math., Phys. e Nat., Lisboa, ser. 2, vii. pp. 66–96.]

A list is given of 64 species of which examples have been obtained by various collectors in the Island of St. Thomas and transmitted to the Museum of Lisbon. Exact localities, critical remarks, and occasional field-notes are added. No species are described as new.

84. *Blasius on the Birds of Pontianak.*

[Vögel von Pontianak und anderen Gegenden des indo-malayischen Gebietes gesammelt von Herrn Kapitan H. Storm für das Naturhistorische Museum zu Lübeck. Aufgezählt und beprochen von Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Blasius in Braunschweig. Mitt. d. Geogr. Ges. u. d. Naturh. Museums zu Lübeck, ii. Reihe, Heft x. pp. 90–145 (1896).]

This memoir, issued in 1896, has hitherto escaped our notice, and appears to have also remained unknown to other workers in ornithology. But the author has now kindly favoured us with a separate copy, and we have great pleasure in giving a short account of it.

* Qu. "*allophyes*" (=ἀλλοφυής)?

† 'The Warblers of New England,' pt. iii. p. 58.

Its subject is the collections of birds brought from the East Indies by Capt. H. Storm of the S.S. 'Lübeck,' and presented by him to the Museum of the City of Lübeck. Dr. William Blasius, who, at the request of Dr. Lenz, the Director of the Lübeck Museum, undertook to work out the collection, divides it into seven sections:—(i.) Birds from Pontianak in West Borneo; (ii.) those from other *certain* localities in Borneo; (iii.) those from Celebes; (iv.) those from the Sulu Islands; (v.) those from Singapore; (vi.) those from Kiang, Malacca; and (vii.) those from uncertain localities of the Indo-Malayan district. On all these birds, mostly well-known species, Dr. Blasius gives us good critical remarks with references. From Pontianak 37 species are recorded, among which is one of special interest to us, a Stork, which is described as a new "variety" under the name *Melanopelargus episcopus stormi*. It turns out that this is the same bird as the *Dissura mortoni* lately described and figured by Mr. Ogilvie-Grant in this Journal ('Ibis,' 1903, p. 145, pl. v.), so that the species should in future be called *Dissura stormi*. Dr. Blasius informs us that both he and Dr. Finsch are quite sure of their identification, and a note on this point has already been published by Dr. Finsch in the 'Ornithologische Notizen' for June last (1904, p. 94).

85. *Bulletin of the Philippine Museum.*

[Bulletin of the Philippine Museum. Birds from Benguet, Province Luzon, and from the Islands of Lubang, Mindoro, and Cagayancillo. By Richard C. McGregor. Bull. Philipp. Mus. no. 3. Manila, 1904.

The Birds of Calayan and Fuga, Babuyan Group. By Richard C. McGregor. Bull. Philipp. Mus. no. 4. Manila, 1904.]

In the third number of the Philippine Bulletin (*cf.* 'Ibis,' 1903, p. 414) are recorded by Mr. McGregor the species of birds of which specimens have been obtained for the Philippine Museum during recent expeditions to the islands of Lubang, Verde, Cagayancillo, and Agutaya, and in the province of Benguet in Luzon. A series of "zoo-geographical notes" is given. The Lubang group lies west of Cape Santiago in Luzon, and north of the western

point of Mindoro, but is nearer to Mindoro than to Luzon. A collector has been working in the province of Benguet for several months and has obtained specimens of several of the rare species discovered there by Whitehead, such as *Batrachostomus microrhynchus, Prioniturus montanus,* and *Chimarrhornis bicolor.*

The fourth number of the Journal is devoted to an account, by the same author, of the birds collected on the islands of Calayan and Fuga of the Babuyan group, lying north of Luzon, during an expedition made in August 1903. Examples of 166 species were obtained, and the following are described as new :—*Turtur worcesteri, Macropygia phæa, Otus cuyensis, O. calayensis, Eudynamis frater, Zosterops flavissima,* and *Hyloterpe fallax.* Besides these, 15 others in the list are stated to be new to the Philippine avifauna.

Good field-notes are given on many of the species. An example of the rare Eagle *Pithecophaga jefferyi,* said to have come from Albay Province, Luzon, has been acquired by the Philippine Museum.

86. *Chapman on a new Grouse.*

[A new Grouse from California. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. A. M. N. H. xx. art. xi. (1904).]

Mr. Chapman wishes to add *Dendragapus obscurus sierræ* as a new subspecies to the American List. It is nearly allied to *D. o. typicus* and *D. o. fuliginosus,* and is their representative in California "in the forested portions of the transition and Boreal zones." The type-specimen is from El Dorado County.

87. *De Chapel on the Nesting of the Flamingo.*

[En Camargue à la Recherche de Nids de Flammants. Par F. de Chapel. Bull. Soc. Acclim. France, 1904, pp. 207–212.]

The author visited the Camargue in June 1904 and found a considerable number of Flamingos' nests, though unfortunately they had been destroyed by a storm. He hopes to succeed better another year, but for the present can only give measurements of the nests and the parent birds, from

which he draws the conclusion that the latter sit with one leg on each side of the nest, as equilibrium would otherwise be impossible. This, of course, runs counter to the views of other writers, but appears to agree with the statements of the natives. Figures are given to assist the enquirer.

88. *Hartert on the Palæarctic Avifauna.*

[Die Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna. Von Dr. Ernst Hartert. Heft ii. Berlin: Friedländer. June 1904. Pp. 113–240.]

The second part of Dr. Hartert's 'Birds of the Palæarctic Fauna' is based on exactly the same plan as the first, which we have already discussed at some length (see above, p. 291). The author continues and concludes his account of the Finches, recognising 237 species and subspecies of this family, and then proceeds to the Larks. The subspecies characterised as new for the first time in Part ii. are nineteen in number, and are named: *Loxia curvirostra hispana*, *L. c. anglica*, *L. c. scotica*, *Montifringilla brandti walteri* (from N.W. China), *Gymnorhis flavicollis transfuga* (Baluchistan), *Passer domestica biblicus* (Palestine), *P. italiæ senckenbergianus* (N.E. Africa), *P. rutilans debilis* (Cashmere), *Emberiza cia par* (Transcaspia), *E. schœniclus pallidior* (Turkestan), *E. s. othmari* (Bulgaria), *E. pyrrhuloides reiseri* (Greece), *E. p. centralasiæ* (E. Turkestan), *Melanocorypha calandra psammochroa* (E. Persia), *Calandrella minor polatzeki* (Lanzarote, Canaries), *Galerida cristata caroli* (Egypt), *G. c. cinnamomina* (Syria), *G. c. tardinata* (S. Arabia), and *G. theklæ erlangeri* (N. Morocco).

Besides these, in the remarks on *Passer montana* (p. 161), *Passer montanus taivanensis* from Formosa is described as a new subspecies.

89. *Helms on Birds from Greenland.*

[Fortsatte ornithologiske Meddelelser (1903) fra Grønland. Af O. Helms. Vidensk. Meddel. fra den naturh. Foren. i Kbhvn. 1904, pp. 79–135.]

Our friends in Copenhagen keep good watch over the birds of Greenland, which, since the days of Scoresby (1823), few

English ornithologists appear to have visited. Mr. Helms now continues his series of contributions to this subject by an account of the birds of East Greenland obtained during Amdrup's expedition of 1898–99, and of the collection made by the observers of the Meteorological Institute at Angmagsalik (on the east coast at about 66° N. lat.) during several years. The result is a complete list, with remarks added, of the birds of East Greenland, altogether 51 in number, of which 16 are more or less casual visitors. To this follow some notes on recent ornithological events in West Greenland, amongst which is a record of the occurrence of the "King-bird" of North America (*Tyrannus intrepidus*) at Arsak on the west coast (61° N. lat.), in September 1900.

Mr. Helms determines the Bean-Goose of East Greenland as belonging to the form commonly called *Anser brachyrhynchus*.

90. *The International Catalogue of Scientific Literature.*

[International Catalogue of Scientific Literature. First Annual Issue. N. Zoology. Authors' Catalogue, vol. xvii. part i., and Subject Catalogue, vol. xvii. part ii. 8vo. 1528 pp. Published, for the International Council, by the Royal Society of London.—Harrison and Sons.

We have not been in the habit of noticing in these pages the yearly volume of the 'Zoological Record,' because we assume that workers in every branch of Zoology who employ their pens must be well acquainted with that useful publication, and must consult it more or less frequently. But having been favoured with a "presentation-copy" of the volume of the International Catalogue of Scientific Literature which relates to Zoology, and which occupies nearly the same ground as the 'Zoological Record,' and having been invited to express our opinion on it, we have great pleasure in acceding to this request.

It is probably known to most of our readers that one of the great difficulties met with by workers in all branches of Science in these days is to ascertain what their fellow-workers have done and are doing. This difficulty is much increased by the enormous number of scientific periodicals

published all over the world. The last volume of the Zoological Record contains a list of upwards of one thousand periodicals relating to Zoology alone, and, of course, in other branches of Science there is a corresponding number of such publications. It is obvious that even a catalogue of the titles of published papers would be of very great assistance to workers in Science. The idea of forming such a Catalogue was first broached by the late Prof. Henry, of Washington, who brought it before the notice of the British Association at Glasgow in 1855. It was ultimately taken up by the Royal Society, who published the first volume of their 'Catalogue of Scientific Papers' in 1867. This was subsequently continued, until there are now twelve large quarto volumes, which give the titles, arranged according to the authors' names, of all the scientific papers published from 1800 to the end of 1883. A further Catalogue containing the names of the papers published from 1883 to 1900 inclusive is now in course of preparation by the same Society. This will make the "Catalogue of Scientific Papers" complete up to the end of the past century, after which it has been determined to continue it in an annual form, if possible.

It was apparent that this gigantic task could best be carried out by international cooperation, and that, to make the result more successful, "subject-indexes" ought to be given as well as the titles of all the new works and papers. An International Conference on this question was summoned by the Royal Society, and took place in London in July 1896, when delegates from twenty-one countries attended and unanimously agreed that an 'International Catalogue of Scientific Literature' should be undertaken, and that it should be controlled by a "Central Bureau" in London, while each other country should have a "Regional Bureau" to collect information on the spot.

At other Conferences held by the Royal Society in London in 1898 and 1900 the scheme was further elaborated, and it was finally agreed that the new International Catalogue of Scientific Literature should be published in London by the Royal Society in seventeen annual volumes, each relating to

a separate branch of Science. It was also agreed that these branches should be distinguished by letters A to R, and that Dr. J. Foster Morley should be appointed Director of the undertaking.

The seventeen volumes relating to the Scientific Literature of 1901 were accordingly issued at different dates in 1903 and 1904, the volume "N" Zoology being the 17th and last of the series. This was published in February 1904, but the MS. of it is stated to have been completed in August 1903.

Let us now turn to the volume itself and examine it and its contents. Though paged throughout (from p. 1 to p. 1528) it is issued in two parts, the first of which (pp. 1–368) contains what is called the "Authors' Catalogue," that is, if we understand rightly, a complete list of the titles of all the works and papers relating to Zoology published in 1901; and the second (pp. 369–1528) what is called the "Subject Catalogue," being a rearrangement of these titles according to the different subjects to which the articles relate.

In the first place, we must object strongly to the paper covers, which are useless for protection and necessitate the immediate binding of the volume. The 'Zoological Record' is issued in a strong board-cover, which should have been the case with the 'International Catalogue.' To deliver a bulky volume of 1500 pages, in two parts, in paper covers seems to us to be a very unbusinesslike proceeding, and not likely to attract subscribers. On the other hand, the paper and print of the volume are decidedly good and deserve our best commendation. But the price of the work (which we may now mention) is decidedly exorbitant. Scientific men, especially Zoologists, are seldom possessed of large means, and "*thirty-seven shillings and sixpence*," which is boldly announced on the cover as the cost of the volume, is a prohibitive price. The 'Zoological Record,' we may remark, costs 20*s*., and will be preferred for its comparative cheapness, if not for its higher merits.

Here also we may say a word about the tardy appearance of the volume. Zoologists, like other workers in Science of

the present epoch, want to be "up to date," and to keep them waiting until February 1904 for a list of the works published in 1901 is much too long a delay. The 'Zoological Record' for 1901 was issued in December 1902, and although we may allow "a little law" for the commencement of a new undertaking, fifteen months more could hardly have been required, if due diligence had been used.

The Authors' Catalogue, which, as already mentioned, forms "part i." of the seventeenth volume of the 'International Catalogue of Scientific Literature,' contains, besides a Preface and an Introduction, a list of the titles of all zoological works published in 1901 arranged alphabetically according to the names of the authors. If complete (which, however, as we shall presently prove, is by no means the case), it would be a very useful work, as it shews (or should shew) exactly what books and papers on zoological subjects have been published during the year in question. The "Authors' Catalogue" fills 260 pages, with double columns, and contains 5918 titles which are numbered consecutively. We suppose that these titles have been supplied by the "Regional Bureaus" of the different countries and have been arranged in order by the Central Bureau in London.

The second part of the 'International Catalogue,' called the "Subject Catalogue," is based entirely on the Authors' Catalogue, and in fact contains nothing more than the 5918 titles of the "Authors' Catalogue" rearranged in different ways according to their subjects. It consists of 1158 pages with double columns. The whole subject of Zoology is, as we are informed in the Explanatory Preface, divided into 29 "Branches" besides a "Comprehensive Branch," which includes works of a general character. We turn over the 1158 pages of the "Subject Catalogue" to find our favourite subject "Aves." This is rather a hard task, as no running titles are given on the tops of the pages—only mysterious numbers from 0010 to 6031. To ascertain the meaning of these curious numbers we must turn again to the Explanatory Preface, where we learn (p. 21) that the titles of literature on "Aves" are numbered from 5803 to 5831. By this clue

we are enabled to discover on page 1276 the commencement of the portion of the work relating to Ornithology, which embraces altogether about 304 pages. It commences with what professes to be a *complete* list of the titles of all ornithological books and papers published in 1901. But this list, we regret to say, is by no means complete. For example, *nine* of the principal papers published in 'The Ibis' for 1901 are altogether omitted *! There can be no excuse for these omissions, as the corresponding volume of the 'Zoological Record,' which was issued in December 1902, contains them all. Moreover, we are officially informed that the MS. of the "Authors' Catalogue" was not completed until August 1903, so that a simple reference to the "Aves" of the 'Zoological Record' would have saved the compiler of the "Aves" of the International Catalogue this grievous error. There are also numerous omissions of titles of important articles published in 1901 in other well-known periodicals which we have consulted—'The Auk,' 'Ornis,' &c. Again, the issue in 1901 of many important ornithological works is altogether omitted—*e. g.*, Seebohm's 'Monograph of the Thrushes' (part xi.), 'Sharpe's Hand-list of Birds' (vol. iii.), Slater's 'Manual of the Birds of Iceland,' and Reichenow's 'Vögel Afrikas' (vol. i.). Dr. Bowdler Sharpe is credited with only two ornithological papers in 1901, the whole of those published in the 'Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club' being omitted. But we need not prolong the list of omissions, which, in fact, render the ornithological portion of the Zoological Volume of the International Catalogue quite unreliable as regards the literature of 1901. On the other hand, many titles of insignificant papers on the breeding of Canary-birds and similarly trivial subjects are inserted, which swell the list but are utterly useless to the scientific worker.

After the general list of publications on Birds in the "Subject Catalogue" come the special subjects and the titles

* See the papers of the following authors in the volume for 1901 :—Shelley (p. 167), Stone (p. 177), Sclater, W. L. (p. 183), Witherby (p. 237), Baker (p. 411), Finn (p. 423), Perkins (p. 562), Shelley (p. 586), and Sclater, P. L. (p. 595).

of works re-arranged under each of them. As, however, the general list has been shewn to be very imperfect, this must necessarily be also the case with the various special lists. Besides this, the special headings are far too numerous, and in some cases obviously misleading. "Postembryonic Ontogeny" (!) is credited with two papers which might just as well have been ranged under "Development." We had supposed that the possibility of "Hibernation" in Birds was no longer credited, but four papers are placed under this curious heading. To "Pelagic Animals" one paper is assigned: it seems to consist merely of remarks on bird-life on the coasts of the Arctic Seas. Why Mr. Campbell's work on 'Australian Birds' Nests and Eggs' should have been selected to be placed under "Variation and Ætiology" we cannot understand. "Geographical Distribution" is, of course, a very important subject, but the mode of arrangement adopted here is very confusing. It is surely unnecessary to break up "North America" into seven different sections, and "Australia" into four. Altogether there are more than sixty different headings in this section. They should have been reduced to one-third of that number.

Finally, the alphabetical "List of new Genera and Species" would be very useful if it were correct and complete; but even the new species characterised in the 'Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club' in 1901 are in many cases passed over*. When the new genus or species is given, the only reference added is that of the number of the paper in the "Authors' Catalogue," and the enquirer has to refer back to the Authors' Catalogue for the title of the work and then to hunt up the page for himself.

It is obvious from what we have stated, and from what, as we are told, is the somewhat similar case in other parts of the zoological volume of this work, that the 'International Catalogue' so far as regards zoology is *not a success*.

* E. g., *Prionops melanoptera* Sharpe, *P. intermedia* Sharpe, *Sylviella gaikwari* Sharpe, *Fringillaria saturatior* Sharpe, *Thryothorus goodfellowi* Sclater, *Gallirex johnstoni* Sharpe, &c., &c.

91. *Kollibay on the Birds of the Bocche di Cattaro.*

[Die Vogelfauna der Bocche di Cattaro. Von Paul Kollibay. J. f. O. 1904, pp. 80–121.]

The Bocche de Cattaro are in a charming country for the Ornithologist, and Herr Kollibay, who had previously experienced the attractions of Dalmatia (*cf.* Ornith. Jahrb. 1903, p. 23), resolved to visit it again. His sojourn in Castel Nuovo during May last year and the great assistance received from a bird-lover resident in the district have led him to compose a complete account of this remarkable Ornis. It contains twenty-two species of Sylvian Warblers besides other attractive forms, mostly breeding in the district. Amongst these is the Olive-tree Warbler (*Hypolais olivetorum*), concerning the nidification of which further accurate information was much wanted, as the bird had been confused by some writers (Brusina, amongst others) with the nearly allied *H. pallida*. Herr Kollibay found this Warbler abundant at certain localities in the Bocche, and obtained two clutches of three and four eggs respectively. *Sylvia nisoria* and *Sylvia orphea jerdoni* (*i. e.*, the eastern form of *S. orphea*) were likewise common in certain spots.

Herr Kollibay also goes deeply into the difficult question of the two Wheatears *Saxicola amphileuca* and *S. melanoleuca* and their eastern and western forms.

92. *Kolthoff on North Polar Birds.*

[Bidrag till kännedom om Norra Polartrakternas Däggdjur och Fåglar af Gustav Kolthoff. Kongl. Svensk. Vet.-Akad. Handl. xxxvi. no. 9 (1903).]

This article gives a carefully revised list of the mammals and birds which have, up to the present time, been met with in the Northern Polar area, together with notes on their range, and, in most cases, on the habits and nidification of the various species of birds. Herr Kolthoff unites the Greenland and Iceland Gyrfalcons with *Falco gyrfalco*, stating his reasons for so doing, and also gives full particulars to shew why *Lagopus hemileucurus* should be considered a

good species. *Calidris arenaria*, though stated by Holböll to breed on Disco Island, was not met with anywhere in Western Greenland, but was common in North-Eastern Greenland, and breeds in some numbers in the swampy lowlands at Mackenzie Bay.

Lists are also given of the birds found in East Greenland north of 70° N. lat., of those which breed in Spitsbergen, of those which have been recorded from there on doubtful evidence, of those which occur in Kung Karls Land, and of those which were met with on Giles Land by the Nathorst Expedition in 1898.

93. *Lönnberg on the Bill in Birds.*

[On the Homologies of the different Pieces of the Compound Rhamphotheca of Birds. Arkiv för Zoologi k. Svensk. Vetenskap. i. pp. 479–512. Stockholm, 1904.]

For this carefully prepared paper the author has examined the bills of most of the important families of birds, and has endeavoured to ascertain the pieces into which the rhamphotheca may have been originally divided, with a view to determining how far the whole member may be homologous with that of Reptiles. In most Reptiles there are to be found a rostrale, labialia, nasalia, internasalia, a mentale, infralabialia, and submandibularia, while possibly the whole of these existed in the ancestral Reptiles. Dr. Lönnberg considers that he can trace these pieces—or the majority of them—in many families of Birds, although certain of them may have become fused together or may have degenerated, being at times reduced to a cere or shewing a mere groove at their junction: in the Passeriformes they are hardly ever separable. On the whole, he thinks that the facts uphold his contention that the bill of Birds is homologous with the snout of Reptiles, and that its condition may be of greater use in classification than has been usually supposed. The paper itself must, of course, be studied by our readers before a full idea of its contents can be obtained, and anatomists must decide for themselves how far they consider this a case of homology rather than of analogy. The facts are clearly

stated after due examination, but perhaps the idea is not quite so novel as the author appears to consider it.

94. *Loudon on Two new Palæarctic Birds.*

[Ueber zwei neue palaearktische Formen. Von Harald Baron Loudon. Ornithol. Jahrb. xv. pp. 55, 56.]

Baron Loudon proposes to separate a form of Chimney-Swallow met with in Turkestan as *Hirundo rustica sawitzkii*. It is intermediate between *H. rustica* and *H. erythrogastra*. The form of *Carine noctua* of the west side of the Caspian, which has lighter plumage, is to be distinguished as *C. noctua caucasica*.

95. *Madarász on a supposed new Genus of Birds.*

[An Extraordinary Discovery in Ornithology. By Dr. Julius von Madarász. Ann. Mus. Hungar. ii. 1904, pp. 396–398.]

This paper is concerned with a new Passerine bird found at Lake Jippe, East Africa, by Mr. Coloman Katona, which Dr. Madarász names *Charadriola singularis*, n. gen. et sp. He considers that it will "entirely modify the hitherto established principal characteristics of the Order Passeriformes"; for, while resembling *Macronyx* in general appearance, it has the terminal third of the tibia unfeathered, scaled, and reticulated, the tarsus scutellated, and thereby is evidently accommodated to aquatic life. We are, however, informed on good authority that this is the bird already described by Dr. Cabanis in 1879 under the name *Tmetothylacus tenellus* (J. f. O. 1879, p. 438) and that it is *not* an aquatic species!

96. *Nelson on the Species of* Myiarchus.

[A Revision of the North-American mainland Species of *Myiarchus*. By E. W. Nelson. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xvii. pp. 21–50 (1904).]

Mr. Nelson has done a good piece of work in revising the arrangement of the North-American species of the very difficult Tyrannine genus *Myiarchus* from the large material at his command. He recognises 19 species and subspecies. Three new subspecies of *M. lawrencii* are characterised as *M. l. bangsi* (from Panama), *M. l. querulus* (from the south

end of the Mexican tableland), and *M. l. tres-mariæ* (from the Tres Maria Islands). The language of science being Latin, it would be better to write the final name of the last subspecies "*trium-mariarum*"!

97. *North's Notes on Australian Birds.*

[(1) Exhibition of Skins and Eggs of *Seisura nana* and *Rhipidura dryas*. By A. J. North. Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W. xxvii. p. 207.

(2) Note on some Northern and North-western Australian Grass-Finches. By A. J. North. *Op. cit.* p. 207.

(3) Exhibition of the Skins, Nests, and Eggs of *Acanthiza ewingi* and *Acanthornis magna* from Tasmania. By A. J. North. Abstr. Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W., March 30, 1904.]

Mr. North sends us copies of three small contributions which he has lately made to our knowledge of the Australian Avifauna. The nests and eggs of *Seisura nana* and *Rhipidura dryas* are from the Northern Territory of South Australia. Among a large number of live birds lately brought to Sydney from West Australia are some Finches closely allied to *Poephila acuticauda*, but distinguished by their orange bill; Mr. North proposes to call this form *P. aurantiirostris*. The Australian Museum has lately received skins, nests, and eggs of two rare Tasmanian birds, *Acanthiza ewingi* and *Acanthornis magna*.

98. *Oberholser on new Birds from Somaliland.*

[(1) Description of a new African Weaver-bird. By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xxvii. p. 683.

(2) Description of two new Birds from Somali-land. *Op. cit.* p. 737.]

The three "new birds," named *Philetairus cabanisi cachlorus*, *Merops superciliosus donaldsoni*, and *Polihierax semitorquatus homopterus*, are all from Dr. Donaldson Smith's collection, of which Dr. Bowdler Sharpe has already given us a full account (see P. Z. S. 1895, p. 465). With all due respect to our American fellow-workers, we think it would be better to consult the very full series of African birds in the British Museum before publishing isolated descriptions of supposed new subspecies.

99. *Palmer and Oldys on the Importation of Game-birds into the U.S.*

[Importation of Game-birds and Eggs for Propagation. By T. S. Palmer and Henry Oldys. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Farmers' Bulletin, No. 197. 8vo. Washington, 1904.]

Two of the Assistants in the ever-active Biological Section of the U.S. Department of Agriculture have prepared this memoir, which contains many useful particulars as to the importation of game-birds into the United States. The Pheasant appears to be the only bird that has done really well, great numbers of them being reared every season in the game-preserves of New Jersey, while they are also largely bred in New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, and other States. All attempts at the introduction of European Grouse, Partridges, and Quails seem to have been unsuccessful. "Thousands of Quails," we are told, "have been liberated in the U.S. during the last thirty or forty years, but nowhere has the species gained a foothold."

100. *Pearson on the Birds of Russian Lapland.*

[Three Summers among the Birds of Russian Lapland. By Henry J. Pearson. With History of Saint Triphon's Monastery and Appendices. London: R. H. Porter, 1904. 1 vol. 68 pls., 216 pp.]

The extreme north of Europe has long been a favourite hunting-ground for the British Ornithologist. Out of the 182 species of birds which are catalogued in the Appendix to the present volume only 16 do not occur in the British List, while 22 species that have never been known to nest in Great Britain are to be found breeding in Russian Lapland. This fact it is, as Mr. Pearson well observes, that excites the great interest in these northern countries among the members of the B. O. U. and other bird-lovers.

As shown by its title, the present volume contains an account of three different expeditions to Russian Lapland, in the summers of 1899, 1901, and 1903. The narrative is in the form of a journal, but is written in full and excellent English, quite free from the blemishes that too often adhere to the journalistic style. On the first occasion the author

was accompanied by his brother Mr. Charles Pearson, and unfortunately "hit upon the worst season that had been experienced in the North for more than forty years"—the country inside the Arctic Circle at the end of May being still under deep snow. The localities examined on this expedition were the Pechinga River and the islands in the gulf of the same name. On July 3rd an encampment was established on the north side of Pechinga Lake, and the surrounding district was at once closely investigated. At the close of this expedition a fortnight later, it was found that in spite of the unfortunate season the two brothers had met with 76 species of birds, and had obtained the eggs of 44 of them.

In the excursion of 1901, the author took his son Mr. Hetley Pearson as a companion, and selected the Kanin Peninsula on the eastern shore of the White Sea as a suitable spot for his main operations. After landing again in Pechinga Bay, where, on May 27th, they found Heno Island covered with snow, they proceeded to Kildin Island on the Murman coast and, after a short halt, to Sviatoi Nos, the only good harbour near to the opposite coast of Kanin, where, in view of the bad weather and the lateness of the season, it was resolved to stop a little. At Lutui up the Ukanskoe River a camp was formed, from which excursions were made until June 20th, when, the weather improving, it was found possible to land on the Kanin coast at the mouth of a river about 42 miles south of Kanin. Here was an open and deserted country, tenanted only by occasional wandering Samoyeds, but good for birds. An "enjoyable time" was passed, and many good nests were obtained. A short landing was subsequently effected on Korga Island at the N.E. corner of the peninsula of Kanin, and a very large colony of Glaucous Gulls (*Larus glaucus*) was found breeding on the sand-dunes there. The departure for England took place on July 15th.

The third expedition to Russian Lapland was in 1903, when it was resolved to see more of the interior of the country, the former expeditions having been mostly confined

to the coast-line. On this occasion Mr. Pearson secured the companionship of Mr. Chaworth Musters, and left Hull on April 30th, picking up at Christiansund a third and most useful member of the party in the shape of a Gordon setter, which "set" to all nests on the ground. On reaching Kola by the mail-steamer the travellers were most kindly received by a Norwegian merchant, Mr. Skjærseth, who provided them with good rooms and arranged for their passage by boat further up country to Pulozero, where, after a variety of adventures *en route*, convenient head-quarters were obtained at the telegraph-station. Here the month of June was busily employed in ranging over the surrounding district and collecting birds and eggs. On June the 26th a new bird's note was heard, so distinct in sound that it attracted attention at once. It proved to be that of Eversman's Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis*), of which other examples were subsequently met with. On July 6th the voyage home was commenced in the mail-steamer.

We have devoted some space to our notice of this volume because of its great interest to British Ornithologists, who will, we are sure, read it with very great pleasure. It is admirably illustrated by 68 plates taken from photographs, most of which are excellent. It describes the summer-haunts of many birds which we know in this country only in the winter season and tells us strange stories of their ways and habits.

We heartily commend Mr. Pearson's volume to our "birdy" friends.

101. *Salvadori on a new* Cryptolopha.

[Nuova specie del genere *Cryptolopha*. Per Tommaso Salvadori. Boll. Mus. Torino, xix. no. 404 (1904).]

Cryptolopha erythrææ, sp. nov., is allied to *C. umbro-virens*, and is from near Keren in the Bogos district of N.E. Africa, where the type was obtained along with other birds in February, 1903, by Sign. Camillo Dai Fiume de Badia Polesine.

102. *Scott's Experiments in rearing wild Finches.*

[An Account of some Experiments in rearing wild Finches by Foster-parent Birds. By Wm. E. D. Scott. Reprinted from 'Science,' n. s. xix. p. 551 (1904).]

A series of experiments was made at Princeton by removing the eggs of sitting Canaries and substituting for them, wholly or in part, the eggs of other American Finches, such as *Melospiza melodia* and *Spizella pusilla*. Although the Canaries were excellent foster-parents and tended the young assiduously, in no case did the latter live more than a few days after being hatched. Mr. Scott thinks that the kind of food used by the Canaries may not have agreed with the young, and also that the form of the nest may, in some cases, have prejudiced the health of the young birds.

103. *Scott on the Inheritance of Song.*

[The Inheritance of Song in Passerine Birds. By Wm. E. D. Scott. Reprinted from 'Science,' n. s. vol. xix. p. 164 (1904).]

Mr. Scott ascertained by experiment that the young of two species of Passerine birds (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus* and *Agelæus phœniceus*) reared so as never to hear the song of their own species, but allowed to hear other kinds of birds sing, never acquired the habitual song of their own species, so that competent judges, well acquainted with the song, could not recognise that of these specially reared birds. This would seem to indicate that the song of birds is not inherited, but acquired by hearing the parent birds sing.

104. *Shufeldt on the Pygopodes.*

[On the Osteology and Systematic Position of the Pygopodes. By R. W. Shufeldt. Reprinted from the 'American Naturalist,' vol. xxxviii. no. 425 (1864).]

This is another of Dr. Shufeldt's elaborate essays on the osteological structure of Birds. It relates to the "Pygopodes," which are classified as a Suborder divided into two "Superfamilies"—the Grebes (Podicipoidea) and the Loons

(Urinatoridea), each of which contains but one Family of existing birds. But the author agrees with Fürbringer in closely associating the former with the extinct Enaliornithidæ and Hesperornithidæ. The osteological characters which separate the two existing Families are very clearly shown.

We agree with Dr. Shufeldt that American Ornithologists have made a "great disturbance of nomenclature" in transferring the name *Colymbus* from the Loons to the Grebes; moreover, we consider that this change, like many others recently proposed, is quite unjustifiable.

105. *Swarth on the Birds of Arizona.*

[Pacific Coast Avifauna. No. 4. Birds of the Huachucha Mountains, Arizona. By Harry S. Swarth. Los Angeles, 1904. Published by the Cooper Ornithological Club.]

This is the fourth of a series of articles upon the birds of the Pacific coast published by the "Cooper Ornithological Club," the monthly official organ of which is 'The Condor,' now in its sixth year.

The Huachucha Mountains, to an account of the birds of which the present number of the 'Pacific Avifauna' is devoted, lie in the south-eastern corner of Arizona, stretching north-east and south-west, their southern extremity lying just over the Mexican Boundary. The range is small in extent, about forty miles only in length, but rises in one place to an altitude of 10,000 feet. It is well watered and well wooded, in the higher parts with conifers and with many other sorts of trees along the canyons, and appears to be an attractive district for "camping out," as the author of this article has ascertained by personal experience. His paper contains well-written field-notes on some 200 species, among which are such interesting birds as *Buteo abbreviatus*, *Falco mexicanus*, *Dryobates arizonæ*, *Aeronautes melanoleucus*, *Phainopepla nitens*, and *Cardellina rubrifrons*. Ten different species of Trochilidæ are recorded as occurring within the limits of the district.